

Application No. 10/654,783

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1, 4 – 8, 10 – 14 and 16 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4 – 8, 10 – 14, and 16 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (Japan 2-126281) ("Sato") in view of Kamezaki (Japan 10-17174) ("Kamezaki"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In claim 1, Applicants recite a photoreceptor module. The module includes a plurality of retractable backing members, a tension roller, a photoreceptor belt, which wraps around the backing members and the tension roller, and an actuating mechanism including a lever for retracting the backing members. The backing members are retractable such that the tension roller extends and deforms the shape of the belt enough to ease the movement of the module between surrounding modules.

In claim 8, Applicants recite a method for detensioning a photoreceptor belt that includes simultaneously retracting multiple backing members located on a photoreceptor module, and extending a tension roller to deform the shape of the belt when the backing members are retracted.

Claims 1, 8, and 12 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of claim 1, claim 8, or claim 12. The Examiner has not established that either Sato or Kamezaki discloses a tension roller that extends and deforms the shape of a belt. The Examiner has not pointed to a portion of Kamezaki that provides this limitation. The passage from Kamezaki cited by the Examiner appears to discuss a rotating tension member that rotates, thereby loosening a belt. Claims 1, 8, and 12 each recite a tension roller that extends, thereby keeping the belt tensioned although the footprint

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of the belt has changed. In view of FIG. 11 of Kamezaki and the accompanying paragraphs, combining Sato and Kamezaki would not appear to anticipate Applicants' invention. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to show that the combination of patents discloses all the elements of claim 1, claim 8, or claim 12. Because the Examiner has failed to prove that claims 1, 8, and 12 is obvious in view of the combination of Sato and Kamezaki, claims 1, 8, and 12 should be allowed.

Claims 4-7 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 4-7 depend from claim 1 and include all the limitations of claim 1.

Claims 10 and 11 should be allowed if claim 8 is allowed as claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 8 and include all the limitations of claim 8.

Claims 13, 14, and 16 should be allowed if claim 12 is allowed as claims 13, 14, and 16 depend from claim 12 and include all the limitations of claim 12.

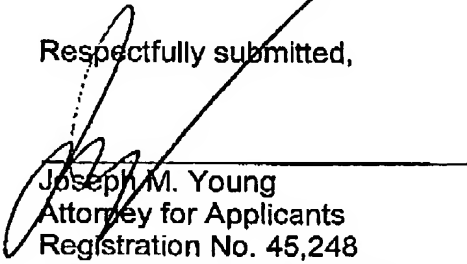
Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

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A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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JMY/rjc